King of Sweden Oscar ll

Year 1524 - 1905

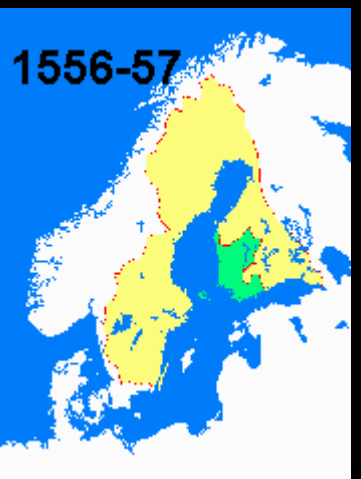
The change of Swedish borders

Short information and maps

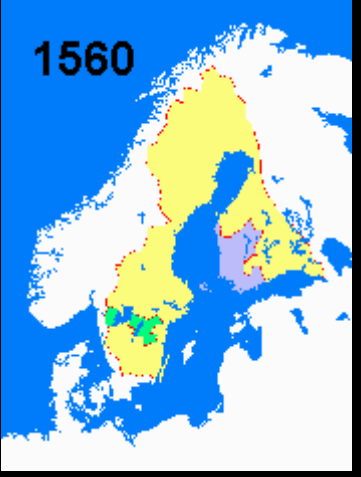
It is agreed in the peace treaty between Sweden and Denmark-Norway that northern Bohuslän will remain under Swedish control until a settlement is reached over the disputed island of Gotland.

Northern Bohuslän is returned to Denmark-Norway despite that no settlement over

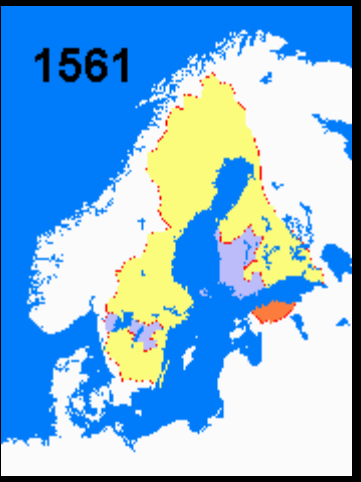
Northern Bohuslän is returned to Denmark-Norway despite that no settlement over Gotland has been reached.



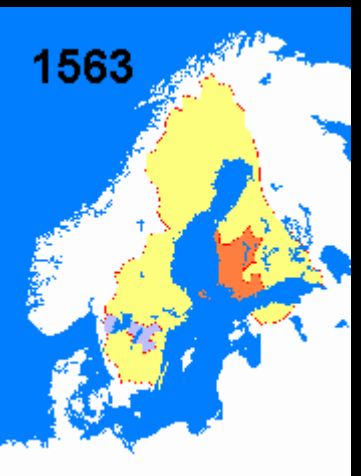
King Gustav Vasa grants his younger son Johan in 1556 a hereditary duchy that is practically an independent state. The duchy is enlarged the following year with a part of Nyland.



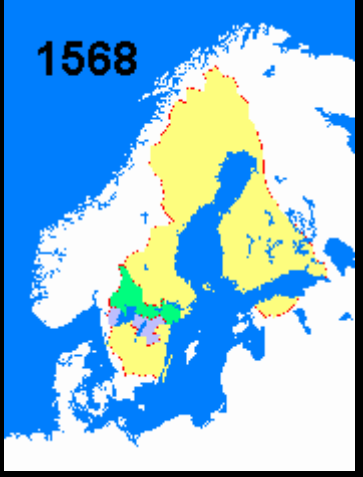
Gustav Vasa's third son Magnus is granted a hereditary duchy with the same rights as Johan's



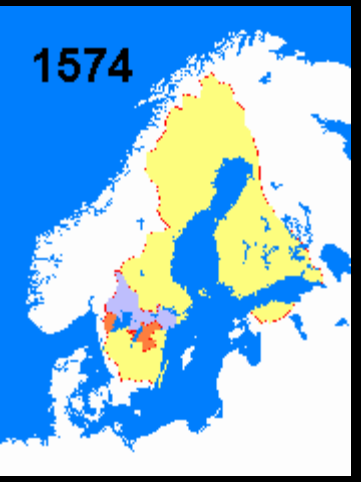
Estonia accepts Swedish sovereignty in return for protection from Russian raids.



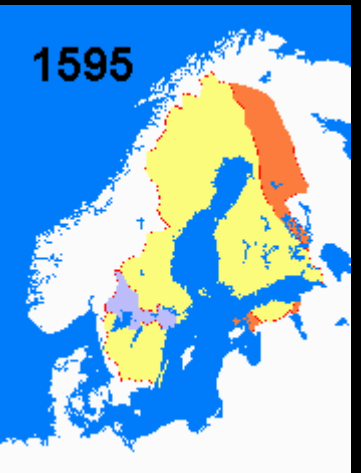
Erik XIV abolishes his brother Johan's duchy as a response to his intimate connections with Poland.



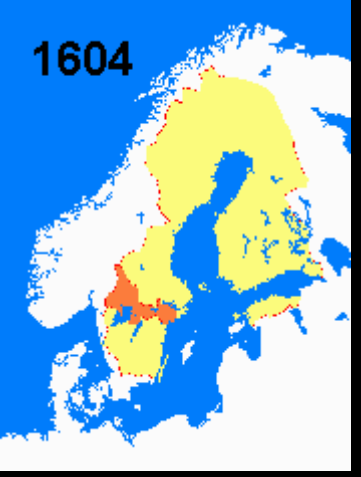
Gustav Vasa´s youngest son Karl receives his hereditary duchy when he reached the age of 18.



Duke Magnus insanity results in that his duchy is divided between king Johan III and duke Karl.

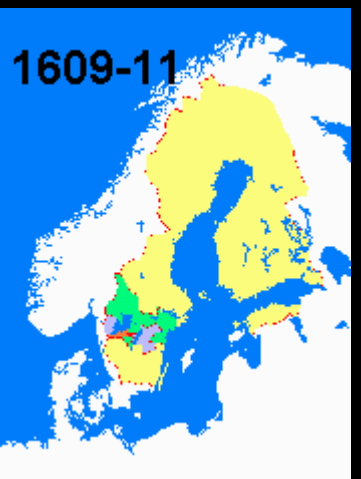


The Finnish border is moved east and Sweden's possession of Estonia is recognised by Russia in the peace of Teusina.



Duke Karl proclaims himself as king after having deposed his nephew Sigismund. Karl's duchy is thereby returned to the crown.

Sigismund’s half brother Johan take control over the duchy he was granted in 1604 in return for the renunciation of his claim to the Swedish throne.

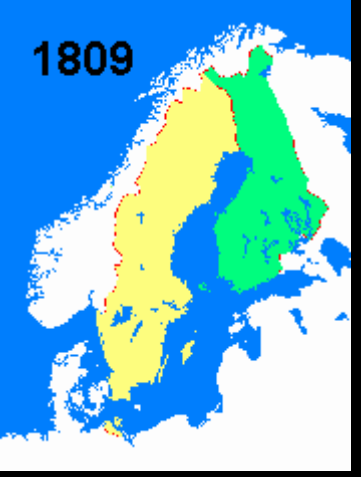


Karl IX grants his younger son Karl Filip a duchy. Trades and adjustments also enlarge Duke Johan’s duchy.

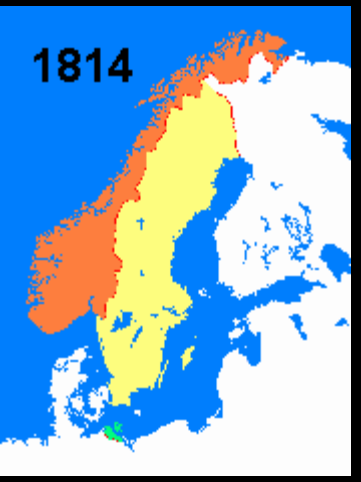
Karl X Gustav conquers Scania, Blekinge, Bornholm, Halland, Bohuslän and Trondheim county from Denmark..

Karl X Gustav tries unsuccessfully to conquer the remaining parts of Denmark-Norway. Sweden must return Trondheim County and the island of Bornholm

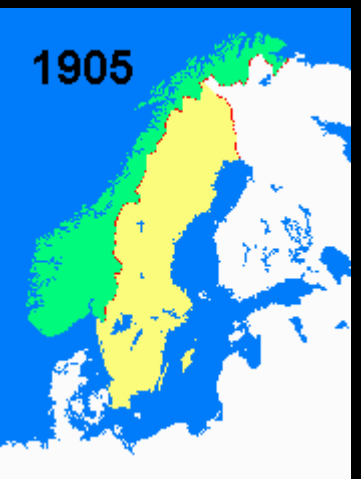
The end of the Scanian war results in minor losses in Germany to Brandenburg, Münster and Lüneburg.



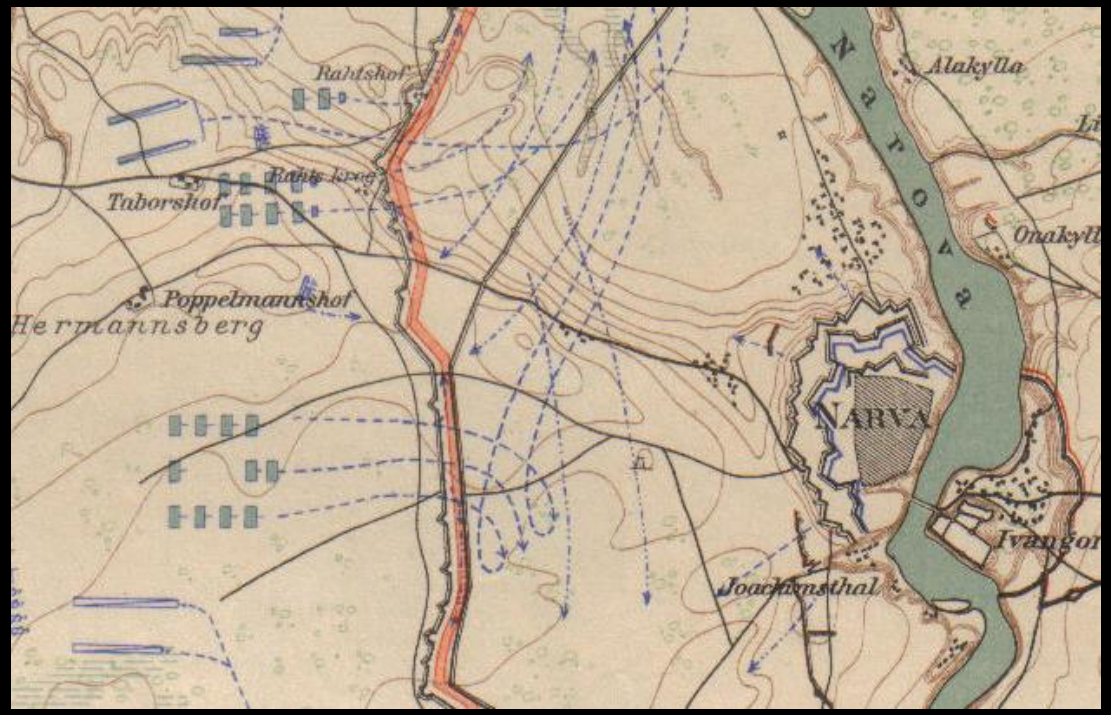
Russia conquer Finland.



Denmark is forced to exchange Norway for Vorpommern. Thereafter a union is established between Norway and Sweden.



The union with Norway is dissolved.

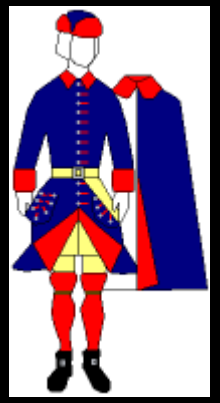


The first major battle in the Great Northern War was fought outside the Swedish fortress of Narva 20 November (Swedish calendar) or 19 November (Julian calendar, used by the Russians) or 30 November 1700 (Gregorian calendar). This fortress had been under siege by a Russian army (between 35 000 and 38 000 men strong) since September and it was not able to hold out much longer when the Swedish king Charles XII arrived with his army. The Swedes were however only 10 537 men strong and Charles XII took a great risk when he attacked a three times larger army entrenched behind field fortifications (a contravallation). But the fortress of Narva was too important and the Swedes were forced to attempt to end the siege. This enterprise was aided by the fact that the Russian contravallation was too long for the Russian army to properly defend it.

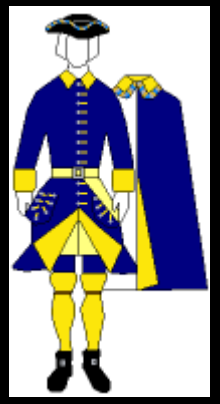
Russian battle line the Swedes chose to concentrate their attack on two points by attacking in columns. They were also favoured by heavy snow fall which blew against the Russians and obstructed their view. This attack split the Russian army into three parts which were then fought separately by the Swedes. And instead of being a protection for the Russian army the contravallation, screened by Swedish cavalry, became a barrier which prevented the Russians from escaping the battle field. Thus resulting in the battle becoming the greatest military victory in Swedish history.

On the Russian side between 8 000 and 9 000 men were killed or injured and most of the injured would not survive the journey back home to Russia. The number of Russians surrendering to the Swedes was so large that Charles XII only took the officers as prisoners and allowed the privates safe passage home. The battle had however been hard fought and the Swedes had also suffered heavy casualties (see below). Even though the Russian army had been inflicted a catastrophic defeat the Swedish army was in such poor condition that a continuation of the campaign into Russia was not considered. The Russians could therefore spend the entire winter to rebuild their army and recover just in time for next year's campaign season. So the battle of Narva was despite of the crushing Swedish victory only the beginning of a 22 year long war which would end in anything but a favourable way for the Swedish side.

The participating soldiers were however blissfully unaware of how long the war would last and the following pages can give an impression of how they looked:



Närke-Värmland Regiment
732 men
2 battalions



Livgardet
1 700 men
6 battalions

Drabant Corps

158 men
2 squadrons

Battle of Helsingborg

At Helsingborg the Swedish general Magnus Stenbock defeated and subsequently expelled the Danish invasion army from the Swedish (and formerly Danish) province of Scania. Half of the regiments in the Swedish army were newly raised and the others had hardly any battlefield experience, while the Danes possessed seasoned veterans from the War of the Spanish Succession. The Swedes nevertheless managed to inflict a catastrophic defeat upon the Danes on 28 February 1710 (Swedish calendar, 10 March according to the Gregorian calendar). Of the 13 100 Danes who participated in the battle about 1 500 were killed and 3 500 men were injured. Additionally 2 600 men were captured as well as all cannons. The surviving horses were put to death inside Helsingborg when the remaining Danish soldiers were evacuated to Denmark to never again return to Scania. The battle was however hard fought and the 15 500 men strong Swedish army suffered 827 deaths and 2 097 men were injured. But the Danish threat against Sweden was temporarily neutralised and the status of Scania as a Swedish province was solidified.